

# ESL LEGISLATION

Jennifer Lloyd  
Una Elementary  
[jennifer.lloyd@mnps.org](mailto:jennifer.lloyd@mnps.org)



# Five Laws and Legal Decisions That Have Had the Most Impact on Public Schools



# Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964

- This law states that no child can be discriminated based on race, color, or national origin.
- It allowed non-English speaking children to not be excluded in any program or funding provided by the schools. The law is also known as the Equal Educational Act.



# Bilingual Education Act of 1974

- The original act gave funding for bilingual programs and training. The amendment of 1974 allowed Title VII programs to use English only programs.
- This helped to train teachers and permitted students to be involved in programs to better assist them in learning English.



# Lau vs. Nichols-1974

- Chinese student fought against the school district because he was not getting equal education because of his limited English skills.
- Provided bilingual education for non-English speaking students in schools.
- Where English only instruction was not effective, this case allowed schools to instruct students in bilingual education to help the students learn and achieve more.



# Plyler vs. Doe-1982

- This case decided that undocumented immigrant students have the same rights to a free education.
- This is a huge case because the U.S. houses so many undocumented children. This decision permitted these specific children to receive an education.



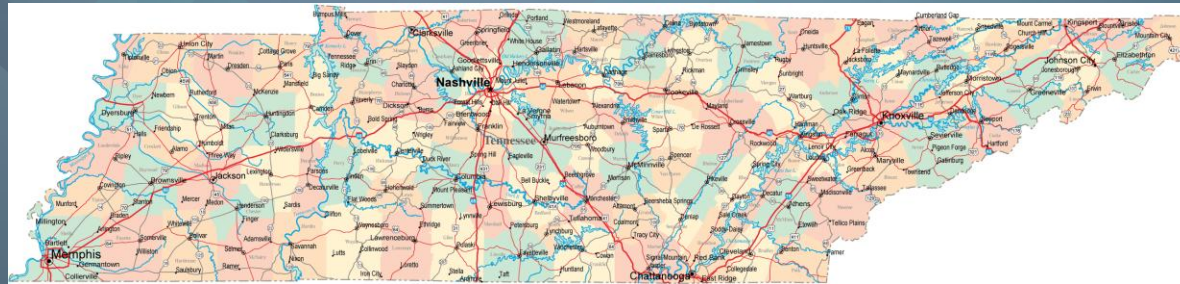


# No Child Left Behind, Title III-2002

- NCLB mandated that ESL students be taught from the same state standards as traditional students, that they achieve English proficiency, and develop high levels of academic achievement in English.
- This law raised the bar for ESL students. They now have to know and be tested on the same standards as English speaking students. With a little intervention, the students can learn the same curriculum as everyone else.



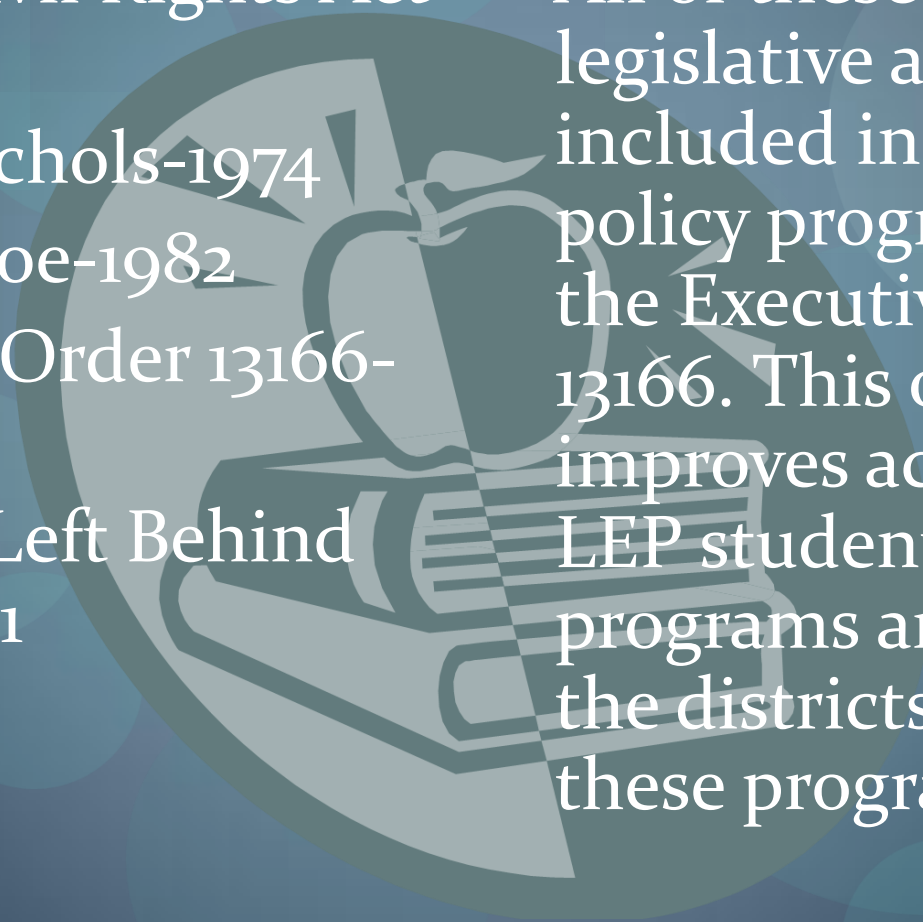
# Five Laws and Legal Decisions That Have Made an Impact on English Language Learners in Tennessee.





# Laws That Have Impacted TN ESL Students

- Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1965
- Lau vs. Nichols-1974
- Plyler v. Doe-1982
- Executive Order 13166-2000
- No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- All of these cases and legislative acts are included in the ESL policy program except the Executive Order 13166. This order improves access for LEP students to ESL programs and instructs the districts to evaluate these programs.



# How have the laws been adapted in Tennessee?



- Metro Nashville Public Schools have students tested and registered before entering school.
- ELL coaches are available to assist whenever needed.
- ELL students receive instruction in reading by a certified ESL teacher, if not in a self-contained classroom.
- When taking TCAP, the ESL students take the ELSA. The language is simplified, but most of the test is still the same. Students get time and a half on subtests, and answers are read aloud on math, science, and social studies.
- Any student can be enrolled without documentation.

# Helpful Resources

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- <http://cerdahdz.webs.com/legislationtimeline.htm>
- <http://www.planesllessons.com/legislation/>
- <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/>
- <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/ell/grants-aid.html>
- <http://www.k12academics.com/us-education-legislation>

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